



**Broadcast Educational Media Commission  
Commission Meeting via Zoom  
May 13, 2021**

I. **Call to Order:** At 10:01 a.m., Chairman Robert Smith opened the meeting of the Broadcast Educational Media Commission.

A. **Roll Call:** At 10:01 a.m., roll call was conducted by Mrs. Gage.

**Members Present:**

Chairman Robert Smith  
Commissioner Geoffrey Andrews  
Commissioner Matt Dole  
Commissioner Rex Elsass  
Commissioner Christine Merritt  
Commissioner Dr. Charles Osborn  
Designee Charles See  
Commissioner Meira Zucker  
Non-Voting State Senator Antani  
Non-Voting State Senator Teresa Fedor

**Members Arriving Later:**

Commissioner Stephen Black  
Designee Shaun Yoder  
Non-Voting State Representative Catherine Ingram  
Non-Voting State Representative Sharon Ray

**Members Absent:**

Commissioner Stephen Freeze, Esq.

A quorum was declared.

**Also Present:**

Mike DeWine, Governor of Ohio  
Executive Director Geoffrey A. Phillips;  
Assistant Attorney General Ashley Barbone;  
Chief of Engineering and Broadcast Operations Craig Stevenson;  
Chief Information Officer Laura Bryson;  
Chief Financial Officer Alina Gage;  
interested citizens:

Thomas Miller, Manager Connected Learning at the Cleveland Clinic;  
David Carwile, Administrator of Ohio Educational Television Stations, Inc;  
Mark Jividen, Chairman of the Ohio Radio Reading Services Alliance;  
Kevin Martin, Chairman of the Ohio Educational Television Stations;  
Mark Brewer, General Manager of WOUB;  
Michael Thompson, Chief Content Director of WOSU & Chairman of Ohio Public Radio;  
Erin Glossop, Legislative Aide to Senator Fedor;  
Karen Kasler, Bureau Chief of the Statehouse News Bureau;  
Andy Chow, Reporter, Statehouse News Bureau;  
Jo Ingles, Reporter, Statehouse News Bureau;  
Dan Shellenbarger, Executive Director of The Ohio Channel;  
Paul Teasley, Editor, The Hannah Report;  
Dominic Ciolli, interested citizen;  
and David Stein, Video Services Manager, Licking Area Computer Association;

**B. Commission Action Items:**

**Resolution 21-30: Motion to Approve February 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

10:04 a.m. – Ms. Merritt moved for approval of the February 11, 2021 meeting minutes. Mr. Elsass seconded. The motion passed via unanimous voice vote.

1. Various reminders were given to commissioners, including financial disclosure deadline, virtual meetings extension, public service recognition week, and NPR's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
2. An update was provided by Mr. Phillips on the FY20-21 audit.

**Resolution 21-31: Motion to Elect Member to the Executive Committee**

10:10 a.m. – Chairman Smith moved to elect Ms. Merritt to the Executive Committee. Mr. See seconded. The motion passed via unanimous roll call vote.

3. A tentative FY22 meeting calendar was proposed.

**Resolution 21-32: Motion to Approve FY2022 Meeting Calendar**

10:12 a.m. – Mr. Andrews moved to accept the FY22 meeting calendar as proposed by Mr. Phillips. Ms. Merritt seconded. The motion passed via unanimous voice vote.

**II. Finance**

**A. Finance Committee Update**

1. Dr. Osborn shared updates from the Finance committee.

**B. FY21-22 Capital Budget Allowance to Ohio Public TV/Public Radio**

1. Mr. Phillips shared the Finance Committee met on March 23, 2021 to review additions to the capital bill appropriation of \$2.1M for Ohio Public TV/Radio. Questions about the Ohio Public Television capital projects arose from OBM and the committee met to

discuss these concerns. He highlighted the need for guiding principles on capital requests.

- a. Mr. Dole added communication is key and a system to work together will fix whatever misunderstanding occurred and ensure everyone is working towards a common goal.
- b. Mr. See said things changes in the budget process regularly and a communication method is appropriate.
- c. Mr. Martin shared coordination is key and appreciates the questions that come up, as it is an opportunity to focus on the process. He felt the meeting was very effective and a great step forward.
- d. Mr. Phillips stated the goal is to have the capital request submitted to CB for inclusion on the 06/14/2021 agenda.

**Resolution 21-33: Motion to Authorize Executive Director to Petition Controlling Board for Release of Capital Funds**

10:21 a.m. – Mr. See made a motion to authorize Executive Director to sign and complete necessary approvals to release capital funds for Ohio Public TV and Public Radio, as well as the Ohio Radio Reading Services for FY 21-22. Mr. Elsass seconded. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**C. Subsidy Allocation Formula Review**

1. A review of the funding split for Ohio Public TV, Public Radio, and Ohio Radio Reading Services was provided by Dr. Osborn.
  - a. Mr. Martin stated the alliances are in support of using the existing formula to allocate FY22 subsidy funds.

**Resolution 21-34: Motion to Authorize Distributions of Subsidy Funds in FY22**

10:25 a.m. – Mr. See made a motion to authorize the distribution of the Content Development Subsidy Funds as 10% to Radio Reading Services with 90% to Public TV & Public Radio with TV receiving 75% and Radio receiving 25%. Dr. Osborn seconded. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**D. May 2021 Financial Statement**

1. Mrs. Gage provided an overview of the May 3, 2021 financial statement. All spending is according to plan and the remainder of the subsidy payments were entered in May. Payments have already been sent.

**E. FY22-23 Operating Budget Status**

1. Mr. Phillips discussed the FY22-23 operating budget status. It is in the Senate Finance Committee now. The House approved a \$1M increase to be shared across all BEMC line items. A request was made of the Senate to shore up the amount to the Commission recommended optimal budget.

**F. Montgomery County Tower Site**

1. Mr. Phillips provided an update of the Montgomery County tower site to transfer the land to Dayton Public TV. Sale to Dayton is set for May 27, 2021.

**G. Marion County Tower Site**

1. Mr. Phillips provided an update on the Marion County tower site sale. It was delayed due to an easement on the property. The transfer is complete, and proceeds have been received and processed by the commission.

**H. FY22 Purchases over \$50,000**

1. A list of suppliers with anticipated expenditures over \$50,000 in fiscal year 2022 was shared.
  - a. Chairman Smith asked if any commissioners have conflicts of interest with the list presented. Mr. Black stated he does with AT&T.

**Resolution 21-35: Motion to Approve Executive Director to Issue Purchase Orders in Excess of \$50,000 in FY2022 except AT&T**

10:35 a.m. – Mr. Andrews moved to authorize authority to the Executive Director to issue purchase orders in excess of \$50,000 in FY22 for the suppliers listed on the provided handout. Mr. Elsass seconded. The motion passed via unanimous voice vote.

**Resolution 21-36: Motion to Approve Executive Director to Issue Purchase Orders in Excess of \$50,000 in FY2022 AT&T only**

10:36 a.m. – Mr. Elsass moved to authorize authority to the Executive Director to issue purchase orders in excess of \$50,000 in FY22 for AT&T. Mr. See seconded. The motion passed via unanimous voice vote, with Mr. Black abstaining.

**I. FY21 Item from Purchase from GRF Funds**

1. Mr. Phillips shared the logging system was purchased from GRF funds instead of capital, as planned. The supplier offered a buy-back of the existing system which made for a very low replacement cost.

**Resolution 21-37: Motion to Approve Executive Director to Execute Purchase of New Logging System**

10:38 a.m. – Dr. Osborn moved to authorize Executive Director Phillips to sign and complete necessary approvals to purchase of new Vela logging system from General Revenue Funds. Mr. Elsass seconded. The motion passed via unanimous voice vote.

**III. Welcome of New Member Representative Ray**

1. Chairman Smith welcomed new commissioner Representative Ray and she shared a few remarks before she completed the Oath of Office, administered by Ms. Barbone.

IV. **Distance Learning in Midst of COVID-19**

A. **ODE Progress with RemotEDx**

1. Mr. Yoder provided updates on RemotEDx and shared some graphics. The goal is to coordinate partners who administer remote learning. As of today, only one school is fully remote; the remainder are in-person or operating a hybrid model.
2. Presentation was interrupted for special guest. See Item V.
3. Presentation continued after special guest exit.
4. Mr. Yoder resumed his presentation stating the trends show that in areas where remote learning is working well, educators want to continue using the technology. ODE is working with partners to establish guiding principles to utilize remote learning to benefit them most effectively. The focus is on what lessons were learned in the pandemic and how can they be used going forward.

B. **MCOECN Connectivity Champions**

1. Mr. Andrews spoke about the RemotEDx connectivity champions and INFOhio. He shared a graphic about internet access. The cost per megabit has decreased over 99% while use had increased. Connectivity Champions are working with families who do not have access to internet or are unable to afford it. Information Technology Centers are receiving funds to increase internet connectivity to homes in their areas. Eleven new communities are targeted for service expansion by the end of the calendar year.

C. **Cleveland Clinic Remote Learning Options**

1. Thomas Miller joined the meeting from the Cleveland Clinic to talk about the Clinic's Worldwide Classroom. He highlighted the education programs, which are focused on health and wellness and career preparedness. Caregivers are brought into classrooms via technology and the students can interact via cell phones. Information is given on good-paying healthcare jobs available right out of high school. Surveys are administered to determine outcomes of the courses. Live sessions are planned for the next school year and on-demand courses will be available.

D. **Multimedia Topics for FY22**

1. Ms. Bryson shared strategy meetings have started for FY22 topics. The first drafts of FY21 videos are due May 18, 2021 and final videos will be available on BEMC's YouTube channel when they are published.

- V. Governor DeWine joined the meeting at 10:45 am to speak to the group. He thanked the group – noting The Ohio Channel, Statehouse News Bureau, BEMC, Ohio Public TV and Public Radio, as well as the Ohio Radio Reading Services -- for the efforts to get his

messages out to Ohioans. He stated the number of press conferences required is historic and the service provided is phenomenal.

1. Kevin Martin shared a response on behalf of the Ohio Public Broadcasters thanking the Governor for expressing his appreciation for the collective efforts.

VI. **Staff reports**

- A. Ms. Bryson stated news postings over the last year have been increased on the agency website and social media.
- B. Mr. Stevenson reported he is thankful for the commissions support. Each of the last four weeks saw 99.98% accuracy. John Hickman joined the staff. Engineering work continues in the server room. The transcoder was installed, and the logging system is on site. Storage systems will need to be addressed before the end of the year.
- C. Mrs. Gage shared her acceptance into the Ohio Fiscal Academy.

VII. **Executive Session**

**Resolution 21-38: Motion to Enter Executive Session**

11:32 a.m. – Chairman Smith called for Executive session to discuss compensation for Executive Director Phillips. Mr. Yoder seconded. The motion passed via unanimous roll call vote.

VIII. **Return to Meeting order**

1. At 11:47 a.m. Chairman Smith called for return to order.

**Resolution 21-39: Motion to Approve Pay Increase for Executive Director**

11:48 a.m. – Chairman Smith made a motion to increase the Executive Director's pay by 3% effective April 11, 2021. Dr. Osborn seconded. The motion passed via unanimous roll call vote.

IX. **Adjournment:**

**Resolution 21-40: Motion for Adjournment**

11:50 a.m. - Mr. Merritt moved to adjourn. Mr. Black seconded. The motion passed via unanimous voice vote.

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Robert C. Smith, Chairman  
Broadcast Educational Media Commission

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Date